Electric Typewriter Industry

*12. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Electric Typewriter Industry in the Capital is still in its infancy ;

(b) the names of firms specializing in the manufacture of Electric Typewriters and their annual output ;

(c) the price of the indigenous Electric Typewriter as compared to the imported ones ;

(d) the steps taken by Government to develop the manufacture of Electric Typewriters in the country; and

(e) the details of applications pending with Government for setting up Electric Typewriter Industrial Units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (e) There is hardly any significant production of electric typewriters in the capital. Presumably, the intention of the Hon'ble Member is to seek information regarding the status of the electric typewriter industry in the country. The electric typewriter industry has not grown in the country, as a whole, because of the emergence of the electronic type writer, which is technologically far superior.

In the large scale sector M/s. Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd., Madras (a public sector unit under the administrative control of the Ministry of Communications) with an approved capacity of 15,000 started production in the early seventies. Due to various problems it discontinued production after some time. In 1983-84, the company, in collaboration of M/s. Olivetti of Italy, restarted the production and produced 400 electric typewriters with the help of SKD kits. The company has gone out of production thereafter.

Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation has a letter of intent for manufacture of 5,000 electric Typewriters but they have yet to fulfil the conditions of the letter of intent and start production. M/s. Logic Systems, New Delhi and M/s. Bharat Electro Devices, New Delhi in the small scale sector have approved capacities of 1000 and 150 respectively. Since they are SSI units their progress of implementation of production etc. are not monitored.

The prices of imported typewriters (including customs duty) and indigenous typewriters are around Rs. 17,000.

One application for grant of an Industrial licence for manufacture of Portable Electric (Graphic) Typewriters which was received in October, 1985 is pending decision of the Government.

Though the Government has given, through broad banding, existing licence holders and holders of letters of intent, the flexibility to take up manufacture of manual electric/electronic typewriters, in view of the technological superiority of electronic typewriters, the trend world over and lack of demand there may not be any significant increase in the manufacture of electric typewriters.

Theft of Bitumen

*13. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI :

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 30 per cent of the bitumen sent from

the refineries to the Godowns is stolen and that Government are incurring a loss of over Rs. 14 crores annually on this account from the Mathura refinery alone ;

(b) if so, that is the estimated annual loss in terms of value on account of theft of bitumen from the various oil refineries in the country during the last three years (year-wise) ; and

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the *modus operandi* of these thefts; if so, what is the result thereof and what action has been taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) No thefts of bitumen have been reported from the Refineries of the oil companies. However, a section of the Press and 'Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Associations have reported thefts of Bitumen during transport and from premises of consumers. There has been no loss to Mathura refinery due to these thefts.

(c) Since the Bitumen produced by the refineries is mainly used by Departments and Organisations of State Governments/Union Territories, this Ministry has suggested among other things that following steps be taken by the State Government/Union Territories to improve the situation;

(i) Government Departments/ Quasi-Government bodies and public sector enterprises should purchase their requirements of bitumen only from the oil companies, *viz.*, Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation. Contractors working for the aforesaid category of organisations should be supplied the required quantities of bitumen by PWD or other appropriate department and procurement by the contractors of their own should not be one of the conditions of the contract.

(ii) The relevant Enforcement Wings and vigilance Cells should be activated to check pilferage from Government storage etc.

(iii) The Director of Industries should be advised to register units which require bitumen as raw material only after the applicants give satisfactory evidence that an authoriative purchase arrangement for bitumen has been made from one or the other of the oil companies.

(iv) All industrial units requiring bitumen (80/100 or 60/70 or 30/40) as raw material for production of Blown Bitumen grades, paints, inks, briquettes, etc., should be advised by the Directorate of Industries to purchase their bitumen requirements directly from the oil companies.

(v) The Directorate of Industries and the Sales Tax Department should arrange for joint scrutiny of the records of the manufacturing units in order to ascertain whether bitumen has been obtained by the units from the oil companies or from unauthorised sources.

Sickness in Small Scale Sector

*14. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while on the one hand the small scale industry in the country has recorded an increase in production and increase in the units, on the other hand the number of sick units